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THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 24-25 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Hello, and welcome back to the TDP reread! This week, we get a brief rest chapter before we go into full-on climax mode. Hope y'all are ready!

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY

Chapter 24: Scarlet hauls the dragonets back to their cave, this time posting guards. She mentions that Clay is hatched from a red egg as she leaves; Tsunami and Starflight debate over the significance of this comment, and then Starflight remembers a legend about how blood-egg MudWings can walk through fire. They theorize that the power is activated by mud, and then the conversation turns to Peril and how she betrayed them. They agree to escape tomorrow, and then they go to sleep, flopped together in a pile MudWing-style.

Chapter 25: The next morning, the dragonets wake up to SkyWings pouring into the cave. Tsunami is dragged off to be prepared for the arena, while Clay and Starflight are escorted to the queen's balcony to watch alongside Glory, Burn, and Scarlet. Tsunami tries and fails to attack Vermilion--Clay notices that more of the crowd seems to support the DoD than he had thought--and then the guards bring out her opponent, Gill. They fight, and although Gill is dangerous, it's not long before Tsunami has him pinned. Tsunami asks the crowd to let Gill live, but they want blood. Scarlet taunts her, and Tsunami breaks Gill's neck. Gruesome death count: 7.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Perhaps our 'dragonet of destiny' doesn't have the stomach for battle," Queen Scarlet called snidely. "Maybe war is too scary for her. Perhaps she'd like to go back into hiding instead?"

"Tsunami lifted her chin and stared straight into Queen Scarlet's eyes. With a wrench of her talons, she snapped Gill's neck in one clean break. The expression on her face said, all too clearly, I'm imagining this is you."

This is actually an interesting concern Scarlet brings up, and one that comes up a few other times throughout the book--in chapter 17, again from Scarlet (why did I not talk about this??), and then in chapter 29, when Tsunami decides they need to see the war firsthand (we'll get to that in a couple weeks). The dragonets really are naive and inexperienced, and they really don't know what the war is like at this point.

THE DRAGONETS

Poor Tsunami, she really doesn't want to kill anyone here.

"Do you really think Peril betrayed us?" Clay asked.

"She definitely did," Tsunami answered. "She doesn't want to lose you."

"Oh," Clay said. "That's so sad. I guess she doesn't have any other friends."

"The warmth and weight of the other two was just what Clay needed. Despite his fears about the morning, his guilt over trusting Peril, and his sadness at her betrayal, he was asleep within moments. And he didn't have a single nightmare."

"She doesn't have a choice," Starflight said. "It's her life or his. If she lets him go, he'll kill her right away. She has to know that."

Yes, but knowing that doesn't make it any easier, *Clay thought.*

THE QUEENS

"Burn stood next to Scarlet, ignoring the throne provided for her. She glowered at all the dragons equally. Clay got the feeling she preferred actual fighting over watching other dragons fight."

Burn is pretty clearly envious of Scarlet's pet RainWing here, as much as she's trying to hide it.

OTHER DRAGONS

Poor Gill. He's kinda scary crazy, though.

The SkyWing guards: "Listen to him. *Oh, please hurry up and kill me.*" "Don't worry, it'll be your turn soon enough," evil laughter. I guess Scarlet shares that *Ominous Cliches for Aspiring Villains* scroll with her minions.

WORLDBUILDING

"Clay and Starflight were shoved up a flight of long, wide, black stairs.... Fat chains were wound around their necks, and Clay and Starflight were bolted to rings on the balcony floor,"

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE

Blood-red eggs and fireproofness!

Starflight: "Maybe my powers will be activated by moonlight or something.

Tsunami: "If that's true, the Talons of Peace were especially stupid to keep you underground."

Oh, if only you two knew how close you are to the truth...not that it'll help Starflight get powers.

How did Gill survive for literal months with no water? Maybe he was getting some from his food...?

BODY LANGUAGE + NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION:

"[Tsunami] nudged [Clay's] wing with hers."

More of that fire-hiss of approval.

"Her scales were pale with horror."

"His mouth was open as if he thought he was roaring, but no sound came out." Ack, creepy.

COMMENTARY

Does Scarlet know that Gill and Tsunami are related? I imagine she knows what the royal patterns look like, and there's no chance Scarlet doesn't know who Gill is even if he doesn't have the patterns, so...probably. It would certainly be characteristically cruel. Wonder what her in-universe reason is for putting him in the arena and not doing what she does to Hailstorm?

"Find the ten most sober guards," Scarlet instructed Vermilion." XD That is the problem with trying to keep prisoners during a party, isn't it? Side note: I had thought alcohol in Pyrrhia wasn't confirmed until book 3. Guess I was wrong.

This bit makes me laugh every time: "He turned to gesture to Tsunami just as she broke away from her guards and charged at him. With a yelp of terror, Vermilion shot into the sky, barely escaping her talons."

Actually, chapter 25 has quite a few amusing moments sprinkled in there.

As always, annotations would be appreciated!

See you next week, when we have more arena fights, the gruesome death count takes a huge spike, and Morrowseer returns!

Previous reread: /325565 Index: /317770

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrm, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

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cleverdragon364

Hmm...I feel like I read somewhere, from an interview with Tui, about the thing you brought up about Scarlet knowing about Gill and Tsunami. I don't *think* Scarlet does know, but then, I could be wrong - I can't remember where I might have read that.

Clever, A Very Clever Guy ♥♥♥
[exits, pursued by a bear]

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Chapter 24

They waited until she was gone and the spiny backs of ten very grouchy SkyWing guards filled the passageway outside.

Tui: From a writing standpoint, I was a little concerned about whether writing a failed escape attempt would feel like storytelling in circles...like, they allllllmost get out, but then they wind up back where they started. In the end I decided it was important to keep in for a couple of reasons: (1) we needed to see Peril's betrayal as a part of her character arc and Clay's, and (2) it wouldn't make any sense for the dragonets to sit around for a night, knowing they'd have to fight in the morning. They'd at least try to escape, because that is how their personalities are (hopeful, proactive, brave even if they don't think they are, etc.). Also, (3) I kind of like the surprise of them failing (at least, I hope it's a bit surprising!). So the escape attempt stayed in! (Brain of a writer, there you go.) ;-)

"Because she wants to keep you here, obviously," Tsunami growled. "This is what happens when you're too nice to psychotic killer dragons."

Tui: Although I would argue that NOT being nice to psychotic killer dragons probably isn't a great survival strategy, either.

"Hey, if I had my scrolls with me, I'd have all the information we could possibly want," Starflight pointed out.

Tui: True! This is true. This is why everyone should carry their entire library with them any time they're likely to get abducted by an evil queen.

"If that's true, the Talons of Peace were especially stupid to keep you underground," Tsunami said.

Tui: INDEED. We won't even find out how stupid for several books, I think.

Chapter 25

Clay got the feeling [Burn] preferred actual fighting over watching other dragons fight.

Tui: I don't even remember writing this sentence, but I feel like it summarizes the difference between Burn and Scarlet in a nutshell.

"Hmmm," said Burn.

Tui: Rereading this now, I kind of wish I'd added a line like, "When you do get bored of her, send her to me. I'm curious to find out what RainWing scales do when you peel them off." Or something horrible like that! Maybe Burn wouldn't reveal her envy that way...I'd have to think about it...but I think that's exactly how she would see Glory: as a potential experiment and horrifying trophy - in contrast to how Scarlet sees her, as this beautiful possession. Just adding to the many problematic ways Glory is "seen" but not really seen throughout her story.

"...wearing the same ruby medallion! It was too embarrassing."

Tui: Hee...I thought it would be fun to show that not all the dragons are whispering about the dragonets...some of them are too wrapped up in their own silliness.

"Indeed," said Vermilion. "Tried to start a regular prisoner revolution, didn't he? Tried to get all the dragons to stop fighting."

Tui: This is kind of what Clay was trying to do with Fjord...not very successfully!

"Drown him!"

Tui: Soooooooooooooome dragons are not very smart.

"Dehydrated, mentally unstable, and ready to fight at last. It's Gill of the SeaWings!"

Tui: For those of you who've read book two...I write this scene and then decided later who he was (you know what I mean). Mainly because I thought it was important to everything that Tsunami has to learn and go through in book two...and because in a world where there is this much violence, I wanted our heroes to very much feel the consequences of it. (Because I also felt like if I left it out entirely, this wouldn't be a series about dragons...so let's have the action and suspense and drama of fight scenes like this, I figured, but let's also think about them afterward instead of sailing right on.)

Tsunami pounced on his head, pinning his wings with her back talons. She seized his horns in her front claws and shoved his face into the sand.

Tui: Also, I did want to show what a skilled and fierce warrior Tsunami is, since that's also important to her character!



Clever, A Very Clever Guy ♥♥♥

[exits, pursued by a bear]

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guardpuppy23

XD

"Find the ten most sober guards"

Great commentary and analytical rereading of TDP!

I would like to do the annotations, but I've got a heap of things I'm procrastinating on already...

~~Whoops, I just remembered I have some research due Sunday.~~



~Pancakes~

"Don't poop in other threads"~Dynasty

"I'm not a psychopath, I'm just very creative."~Harry Potter-Evans-Verres

"I SHALL HIT YOU WITH A HAPPY BRICK!"~Sanetra

"No, I need a computer that doesn't double as an egg fryer."~Night

#HopeForHurricane

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fairydragon1798

Whoops, incoming post is my alt.



~Fairydragon~

She/Her

We will never be forgotten
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

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blizzarddragon16741

Perhaps SeaWings have some sort of natural way to survive without water?...

Perhaps he was fed lots of cucumbers and celery. I just looked that up.



•Inkblot•

Being unoriginal here!

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fairydragon1798

Late posts...



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fairydragon1798

~~*stalks while she's supposed to be doing that project*~~



~Fairydragon~
She/Her

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